



# Arizona Department of Public Safety **DIGEST**

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'Courteous Vigilance'

September/October 2007



## Helping hand

(Left, photograph by Mark Henle, courtesy of *The Arizona Republic*) DPS Cmdr. David Denlinger comforts a child just moments after DPS SWAT units entered the child's home to serve one of nine search warrants on the morning of Oct. 11. (Above) SWAT officers stand outside and regroup after their first home entry.

## DPS joins forces with other agencies, aims at Pinal County gangs

*A six-month-long investigation results in arrests of some of county's biggest threats*

by Kellen Chavez

Digest Staff Writer

Ongoing, violent gang conflict in Casa Grande and other areas of Pinal County forced the hand of an unprecedented union of agencies to serve nine search warrants and 17 arrest warrants on Oct. 11.

Supporting DPS and the Gang & Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) task force were the Pinal County Attorney's Office, the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, the Casa Grande Police Department, the Coolidge Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Eloy Police Department and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

DPS Director Roger Vanderpool said,

"You can see by the number of agencies involved at the federal, state, county and local levels, there was a concerted effort to target those responsible for the violent crime wave and get them off the streets."

GIITEM and the Department have long been aware of the struggle between the Bloods and Crips in Casa Grande, however, a significant escalation in gang-related violence began in September 2006 when a prevalent gang member was murdered in Casa Grande.

DPS Sgt. Edward McNeill said, "The fighting between the gangs became territorial where one gang would attack and the other would retaliate.

"Five gang members have been murdered since September [2006]."

In addition to those five homicides, 27 drive-by shootings, 19 bullet wounds and 2 stabbings have been attributed to the same gang struggle.

Towards the end of 2006, the problem reached such alarming heights that Operation "Enough is Enough," was formed, largely because the normal shifts of manpower were not enough to control the conflict.

As a result, GIITEM formed an alliance with the DEA and ATF as well as with the surrounding local agencies to take back control of the streets.

Along the way, the gangs developed such distaste for the task force officers that some leading members threatened to shoot

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**From Director  
Roger L. Vanderpool's  
*Vantage Point***



This past summer, Arizona became eligible to receive a substantial amount of funds, totaling \$17.7 million, for use in advancing public safety communications within the state.

The availability of the money, through a unique Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program, has been serving as a tremendous source of excitement for those within Arizona's public safety community.

After all, it's no secret that many of Arizona's emergency services communications systems, including the expansive systems that allow DPS officers to communicate with agency dispatchers and each other, are aging and in dire need of modernization, especially in areas where interoperability with other agency radio systems is concerned.

Primarily as a result of the hard work put forth by the men and women that make up the Arizona Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC), an entity that operates under the DPS organizational umbrella, it appears as if Arizona is right on track towards receiving its \$17.7 million in federal funds.

The money, some of which could be available within six months, will provide the PSCC and other entities with the means to substantially build upon, within a short period of time, the momentum our state has already generated in the effort to develop modern, advanced public safety interoperable radio systems for its first responders.

Because the money will come from the strict PSIC Grant Program, it can't be used to support single agency projects whose emphasis is on the internal communications needs of one agency.

The money is strictly intended to be used to advance public safety radio communications through its use in projects that are multi-jurisdictional and/or regional in scope.

This means our officers are continuing to move closer to the day when they can very easily, and in real-time, use their DPS issued police radios to communicate with officers and first responders from other agencies as needed.

To learn more, visit [www.azdps.gov/pscc](http://www.azdps.gov/pscc)

**For the record  
Employees can utilize iNotes**

It is a fairly well known fact that DPS users cannot check their e-mail from any other DPS office or computer. But would it surprise you to know that you can check your DPS e-mail from any computer on earth, as long as that computer had the correct software installed?

Through iNotes you can access your Lotus Notes mail via a web browser. If you are working in a remote location, chances are you are already using iNotes instead of the full client. Not sure which one you are using? If you log in with "ps" and your badge number, you are using iNotes.

If you share pictures, work in several offices, travel for DPS or just want to check email from home, you can! Just call Operations at ext. 2421 to put in a ticket and we will make that happen.

Here are some things you should know about using iNotes:

1. Today, iNotes only works on Internet Explorer, Version 6. No other web browsers or versions are supported \*like Netscape, or Firefox or IE 7\*. Once upgraded, that won't be the case, but until then it is.
2. You must allow pop-ups from email.azdps.gov – that's the website where you would go to get your DPS mail away from the office.
3. Your iNotes password doesn't sync with your client Notes password. If you change one, you'll have to change the other since they are not currently set to sync.
4. The speed of iNotes is dependant on the speed of your internet connection. If you are using dial-up, you'll get that speed with your e-mail. Faster connections will mean faster iNotes.

**Always wear your safety belt**

On Sept. 3, DPS Police Communications Dispatcher Kelli Bedway answered a 911 call from a nearly hysterical female caller reporting she was involved in a collision on a metro-Phoenix freeway. Bedway tried to calm the caller and when she determined the caller's vehicle was immobile and in a dangerous position, she instructed the caller to put her safety belt back on. Just minutes after this instruction, the caller's vehicle was struck by another vehicle. The caller later told investigators that Bedway "saved" her life with the timely instruction to put on her safety belt that she had removed to reach for her cell phone. Bedway received a letter of appreciation from the Operational Communications Bureau manager and will be nominated for the annual State of Arizona 9-1-1 Award.

*The Digest* is published monthly by the DPS Community Outreach and Education Program for DPS employees and retirees.

Employees are invited to submit story ideas or stories for publication. Stories or story ideas may be submitted to *The Digest* by mail (mail drop 3350), EMS or Telephone (602-223-2545).

Roger L. Vanderpool, Director  
Jim Jertson, Publications Editor, [jjertson@azdps.gov](mailto:jjertson@azdps.gov)  
Kellen Chavez, Publications Support Specialist, [kchavez@azdps.gov](mailto:kchavez@azdps.gov)

*The Digest* can be accessed directly from the DPS World Wide Web home page at <http://www.azdps.gov/digest>.

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## Another Cardinals season begins and DPS plans for Super Bowl

by Kellen Chavez

Digest Staff Writer

As the Cardinals began their 2007 campaign, DPS once again joined forces with the Glendale Police Department to provide law enforcement and security for each home game this season.

While they are helpless to affect the occasionally heartbreaking game outcomes at University of Phoenix Stadium on Sundays, the Department and Glendale PD can draw on increased experience to provide security at the venue this year.

Lt. Bob Ticer, who commands the Department's officers at every home Cardinals game, said, "We got through the first season and the second just started right where we left off. We have the same com-

Normally the NFL works with a single agency in all the preparations and planning for the event, but since there is already a unified command between DPS and Glendale PD for Cardinals games, the two agencies pushed to keep things the same for the Super Bowl.

Cmdr. Mike Orose, who was selected last year as the Department's planning representative for the Super Bowl, said, "Here in Arizona, all of the public-safety agencies work so well together that no single agency wanted to be the lead agency.

"The NFL wanted to have one agency that they dealt with. So we came to an agreement that all of the major agencies, which are the City of Phoenix, the City of Glendale, DPS and the FBI, agreed to appoint a person

that would be the contact to the NFL."

Orose added that the idea for a unified command, which will be conducted from a Joint Operation Center (JOC), was enforced by the fact that the Valley is so spread out.

There are

events in the immediate, Glendale vicinity of the game, but there are also Super Bowl-related events planned in Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa and Scottsdale.

Planning for the Super Bowl actually began when Arizona was assigned the 2006 BCS Championship game last January.

Orose said, "The idea was to have a unified effort of all law enforcement agencies in the valley towards making a safe and secure Fiesta Bowl and the BCS championship."

As a result of this planning process, three different levels were created, and have since been assimilated to the NFL's demands, to spread the burden of planning this event.

The Executive Steering Committee consists of the heads of all the agencies that have NFL-related events occurring in their city. Primarily, these heads set the policy and direction for this event.

The Planning Committee consists of individuals who were chosen by the heads in the Executive Steering Committee to be the lead planner. The Planning Committee also established 22 subcommittees, or work groups, that specialize in safety areas that would be crucial should anything go wrong at the Super Bowl.

The final level of the planning process is "Public Safety at Large." This includes any other agencies that will have some interaction with Super Bowl events but no direct hand in the planning process.

The demand on manpower for the Super Bowl will also be much greater than a normal Sunday at University of Phoenix Stadium.

DPS will also have responsibility for Super Bowl-week events, which start the Sunday before the game and end with the conclusion of the actual game on Feb. 3.

These include everything from the NFL Experience outside of the stadium to the two teams hotels to NFL-sanctioned parties across the valley.

Orose said, "Glendale is still putting together their number of what they think they're going to need. The preliminary numbers I believe Glendale is looking for is about 500 people. DPS is contributing, as far as valley needs, about 350 personnel for that week."

The unified command, however, will have somewhat of an opportunity to have a practice run prior to the Super Bowl.

The JOC will be open for the Insight and Fiesta Bowls and for the Tempe Block Party on Mill Avenue on New Year's Eve.

"In closing this is kind of a unique way that we do business. By having our unified command we'll have all the state, city, local assets, the fire assets and federal assets all in the same building which is unique to Arizona compared to others across the United States," Orose said.

### Corrections

*The following is a correction to the July 1977 Down the Highways entry from last month's issue.*

The story incorrectly used the name of Officer Ron Colby as the arresting officer. It was actually Highway Patrol Officer Rod Covey who was a brand-new officer at the time.

*"Having our unified command...in the same building is unique to Arizona compared to others across the United States."*

mand staff and, for the most part, the same staffing and officers from last year.

"Everyone understands his or her roles even better with a season under the belt."

However, a spectacle considered the mother of all U.S. sporting events looms on the calendar early next year.

For the first time since 1996, Arizona will host the NFL Super Bowl.

Ticer said, "We're looking to provide the best protection and service that we always do, but the whole season is also preparation for the Super Bowl so that when that game day comes, we've done everything we can to provide a safe environment for everyone."

Since the tragic events of Sept. 11, the federal government has designated the Super Bowl a "Sear 1" event meaning that it is an event of such national importance that it automatically receives federal support.

## Over one hundred gather to remember fallen DPS canine "Rico"

A dozen roses and clay paw imprints adorned a table at the Sept. 5 ceremony to remember fallen DPS canine "Rico."

In addition, two picture frames, one a picture of Rico and the other displaying the canine's seizures over the years, stood on either side of the podium.

Held outside the Department's Tucson headquarters building, more than 100 members of the public, media, DPS and other sworn agencies gathered to honor one of the most successful canines in the Department's history.

Lt. Jim Warriner of the Department's Community Outreach and Education (CORE) Unit gave the opening address while Chaplain Terry Green offered a prayer in Rico's memory.

Sgt. Mark Morlock of the Counter Narcotics Alliance closed the ceremony by presenting a plaque to Officer Keith Duckett to honor the canine's accomplishments.

Rico died on the evening of Aug. 20 after he was struck by a commercial vehicle on Interstate 10 just outside of Benson.

Just after 7:00 p.m., Duckett attempted to stop a Chevrolet pickup truck for exces-

sive speed.

After activating his emergency lights, the truck began to speed up and Duckett initiated a pursuit that ended less than a minute later when the driver pulled off the roadway.

Two suspects bailed from the vehicle and ran.

Duckett checked on the suspects' pickup and found a large quantity of marijuana. At this point, he deployed his canine, Rico, to help with the apprehension of the suspects.

During the pursuit, Rico became distracted and instinctively ran back to the patrol car. Duckett was successful in arresting both suspects, but lost sight of Rico.

Unfortunately, Rico had run onto the interstate and was hit and killed by a passing commercial vehicle.

Rico was widely recognized as one of the Department's most successful canines. In total, Rico helped in the seizure of approximately 68,000 pounds of marijuana, 86 pounds of cocaine, 95 pounds of methamphetamine and nearly \$1 million in U.S. currency during his career with DPS.



Rico



Arizona Department of  
**Public Safety**



## Terry Conner retires from the Department after more than 35 years

Terry Conner retired from the Department on July 6 after completing more than 35 years of service.

Conner began his DPS career in 1972 as an operational communications dispatcher stationed in Flagstaff. He was later promoted to communications supervisor.

In 1975, Conner entered the DPS training academy as a member of Class #26. After completing basic training, he was assigned to the Blythe/Quartzsite area of Highway Patrol District 10.

He later transferred within District 10 to patrol the west valley areas of metropolitan Phoenix. He held positions as a field training officer and, later, instructor.

Conner promoted to sergeant in 1981 and later moved up the administration chain with promotions to lieutenant and commander.

His exceptional administrative and communications skills were twice recognized when he was recruited to serve on the director's staff as a media relations specialist and executive officer, and later as the Department's governmental liaison.

The safety of the public traveling the state's highways was always Conner's focus and passion.

He was selected to represent the Department during a yearlong assignment to the staff of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in Washington, D.C.

During this assignment Conner worked with other traffic safety professionals, developed unique programs and published articles which were read by thousands of front-line and executive-level law enforcement personnel around the country.

Recognizing that the success of the Department is dependent upon a well-educated citizenry, Conner established the Department's first citizen academies.

The academy template and philosophy that he conceived and brought to life is still in use today and serves as the model for expansion of the program.

Before the terms "9/11" and "interoperability" became common public-safety and household words – Conner recognized the critical need for public-safety agencies to possess the ability to communicate directly with each other, in real time, during emergencies.

Conner was the state's subject-matter expert on this topic through his vision of "Project Crystal."

His early efforts are realized today with the statutory establishment of the Arizona Public Safety Communications Commission.

Part of Conner's professional legacy will be the fact that he was one of the first to speak out on this critical issue.

Later, public safety officials, politicians and the nation heard his message "crystal clear." He distinguished himself in the post-Sept. 11 era serving as the chief of staff of



**Terry Conner**

the Criminal Investigations Division.

In this capacity he was instrumental in advancing a number of vital counter-terrorism and homeland-security initiatives.

Recognized as an extremely dynamic period for public safety, Conner was at the epicenter of this rapid change.

Other accomplishments during his career include the directing of department resources during Super Bowl XXX, the 2001 World Series, 2004 Presidential debates and developing our readiness for the Y2K transition.

Conner was the recipient of numerous commendations, letters of appreciation and Director's Unit Citation awards.

## DPS Officer John Smith helps save man from drowning in a canal

DPS Officer John Smith played the role of hero in late August.

On Aug. 27, Smith was flagged down by a male standing next to a large canal that runs under Interstate 8 near milepost 9.

The man told Smith that he was going to jump into the canal and kill himself by drowning and asked Smith if he would give his bag of belongings to his wife.

After talking with the man for about 30 minutes, Smith convinced him to step away from the edge to get a drink of water.

The man grabbed the water and began to walk back to the canal's edge.

DPS Officer Brian Cooley felt the man was going to jump into the water so he used his Taser in hopes of controlling the man until he could be safely removed from the area.

The Taser was unsuccessful and the man jumped into the canal.

After jumping into the canal, the man came up for air multiple times and attempted to reach the side but failed.

He then went underwater and did not come back to the surface.

Smith jumped into the canal and found the man, brought him to the surface, swam to the side of the canal and got the man out of the water.

Paramedics treated the man on scene and transported him to Yuma Regional Medical Center where he was turned over to the care of mental health professionals.

Smith has since visited the man in the hospital who is doing much better and has said that he is open to getting the help he needs.

## Cop Swap

The DPS 2007 Annual Craft Show will be held on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007, on the Tornambe Terrace, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The cost for tables is \$20 each, with the monies going to the Employee Assistance Program.

For more information please contact Sue LeHew at (602) 223-2472 or Debbie Stocker at (602) 223-2473.

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Two bedroom timeshare in Las Vegas, week of Dec. 9-16. This is the week of National Finals Rodeo. The cost is \$550.

Call Barbara Hall at ext. 3601 or e-mail at [bhall@azdps.gov](mailto:bhall@azdps.gov) for more information.



## GIITEM ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

officers on sight if they were to venture into gang-controlled neighborhoods anymore.

DPS Lt. Daniel Lugo said, "[In an effort to control the problem] For the first six weeks of the investigation, we deployed officers seven days a week."

The operation officially began six months ago, but strategic arrests began only a little over three months ago.

Lugo added, "This has not been your traditional roundup. The most difficult part has been deciding who we are going to arrest and when based upon all of the evidence we have gathered."

The investigation culminated in the unprecedented use of resources and manpower on Oct. 11.

Of the nine search warrants that were served, five of them demanded tactical SWAT, DEA and ATF teams.

McNeill said that while the average shift of GIITEM officers on patrol in Pinal County is usually between 15 and 30, more than 100 law officers were used on Oct. 11 to hit targets simultaneously.

By hitting gang houses early and simultaneously the chance of members tipping each other off was far less likely.

A large caravan of law enforcement vehicles, led by two armored SWAT trucks filled

with officers, arrived at the first target house just after sunrise.

DPS helicopters circled above for air support and to maintain security for the operation.

The first targeted neighborhood, a typical upper-middle-class housing development, seemed an unlikely nesting place for an individual that had become one of the most dangerous menaces in the city of Casa Grande.

However, SWAT entered the corner house near Maria Lane and 10<sup>th</sup> Street and apprehended its suspect very quickly and without significant incident.

And still, the suspect sat on the street curb in handcuffs taunting embedded photographers while attempting to flash gang signs with his bound hands.

The second wave of raids, which began after teams were given a chance to regroup about an hour after the first invasions, targeted two houses that were separated by a single home in between them.

Upon hearing his door come crashing down along with the commands of officers to give himself up, the suspect made a run for it. The short pursuit ended when the suspect jumped his fence only to land in the yard of the other home that DEA officers were raiding.

While in custody, the suspect had no problem speaking candidly with officers from

the back of a Highway Patrol squad car.

He said, "I ran because instinct took over. It looked like the U.S. army was coming to get me."

Later in the afternoon, DPS hosted a press conference outside its headquarters building in Phoenix for which every major news outlet in the Valley was in attendance.

Pinal County Sheriff Christopher Vasquez said, "This is a great example of local, state and federal agencies coming together."

"There will be more [operations] coming in the future. We are not stopping after today."

In total, 17 arrest warrants were served at the nine different target points.

Added to the 44 who were already arrested over the past three months, GIITEM has already made a significant impact on the gang problem in Pinal County.

Casa Grande Police Department Chief of Police Robert Huddleston said, "We're looking at this as a fresh start as to how to handle gang activity in the future."

Vanderpool, however, stressed that the gang problem is a state problem and should not be misconstrued as merely a county issue.

Pinal County Attorney James Walsh said, "By having coordination, it does a lot to take a step towards fighting the [gang] problem statewide."



### Enough is enough

(Above) SWAT officers stand a short way down the road from houses being simultaneously entered by other SWAT officers Oct. 11. (Right) The official banner for Operation "Enough is Enough." Photo, and banner artwork, by John C. James, Jr., DPS.



### OPERATION: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

An unprecedented, multi-agency effort that has taken back the streets of Pinal County from violent, warring gang members and drug dealers.







### Early morning strike

(Top) SWAT team members stand outside of the first targeted house on a morning full of raids on Oct. 11. (Middle) A suspect is taken into custody after SWAT entered his home. (Bottom, from left) Pinal County Attorney James Walsh, DPS Director Roger Vanderpool and Pinal County Sheriff Christopher Vasquez address the media outside the DPS headquarters building just hours after the unprecedented, multi-agency operation in Pinal County. Of the nine search warrants served on Oct. 11, 17 gang members were taken into custody. In total, 61 dangerous gang members, or people with gang affiliations, have been arrested over the past three and a half months thanks to the collaborative operation involving state, county, local and federal law enforcement. Photos taken by John C. James, Jr., DPS.



## DPS takes over Loop 101 cameras, plans larger statewide program



### Banner for a statewide program

This banner appears on the Department's website with a notice that DPS will now oversee the photo enforcement on the Loop 101 while also expanding the program statewide. Banner artwork and photos by John C. James, Jr., DPS.

by Kellen Chavez  
Digest Staff Writer

Positioned throughout the eight-mile Scottsdale stretch of the Loop 101, simple-looking, mounted cameras delivered more than 90,000 citations during the eight-month pilot project headed by the city of Scottsdale in 2006.

Recently, however, those cameras became the launching point for something much bigger.

On July 1, the DPS took over responsibility of Scottsdale's stationary cameras on the Loop 101 with the ultimate goal of creating a statewide photo-enforcement program to be in place by the end of this year.

The Department took initiative of this statewide, photo-enforcement program through an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and a contract with American Traffic Solutions (ATS).

The current mandate is unfunded and until a funding source is secured DPS will continue to finance this project out of its own budget.

But the benefits to a program like this are enticing in improving the safety on the state's highways.

Commander Tom Woodward of the Highway Patrol Division said, "If we deploy the cameras in major junction areas like the U.S. 60 and I-10 and the stack, we can slow people down, even out the flow of traffic and have a more significant impact on collisions than on an open stretch of roadway."

He added, "We will be able to reduce stopping distances and the potential for side-swipe collisions from people changing

lanes or merging."

All together, the program will have three elements; stationary cameras similar to those that currently occupy the Loop 101, mobile speed vans and red light cameras.

This summer, the Department was awarded a contract for two mobile speed-enforcement vans to be used throughout the state starting in late October.

The benefit to mobile vans, which are staffed by ATS as not to strain the Department in terms of manpower, is that they can be moved throughout the state and different jurisdictions.

While the 90,000 tickets issued by the Loop 101 cameras is impressive, it also equaled the total number citations handed out by the rest of Maricopa county justice courts combined.

It is overwhelming for one justice court to process that many citations.

Woodward said, "That's where the vans are advantageous because we're able to spread that caseload over multiple courts."

DPS has also planned ahead to ensure the safety of those working inside the vans.

"On high-speed corridors, we will be looking for locations where the vans can be protected by guard rails, crash barriers or cable barriers.

"In other words we don't want to pull a van up and park it on the interstate with traffic passing by at 75 mph," Woodward said.

Construction zones are an attractive place to position these mobile vans because the vans can enforce speed to protect workers, while the construction zone also provides the vans with protective barriers.

As always, Highway Patrol is approaching this program as an added tool to its everyday responsibilities. These cameras will not take the place of patrolling officers nor will they give officers reason to relax on their responsibilities.

Woodward said, "[Photo enforcement] doesn't replace patrolmen, it doesn't arrest drunk drivers, it doesn't arrest reckless drivers, it doesn't rip loads of dope, so the Department is approaching it very much as a tool that enhances or supplements officers."

On a very preliminary level, the Department is also looking into the possibility of using point-to-point technologies.

Point-to-point enforcement works with cameras but rather than clocking a vehicle's speed at a fixed point, the first camera takes a picture of the car's license plate as does the second when the same car passes.

Based on how fast the car got from the first camera to the second, it can be determined mathematically if the car was speeding during this stretch.

This technology has been used heavily in Australia with reports of great success in improving highway safety and reducing speeds.

While Arizona drivers will collectively pay a large amount of money depending on the number of citations handed out the perception that these cameras are merely an easy way for DPS to make a lot of money is wrong.

Woodward said, "Because of the cost and the size of the program, we have to have an IGA with the counties to provide a revenue stream back to the Department to fund it on a revenue-neutral basis."



## Sgt. John Christie retires from Department after 33 years of service

John Christie retired from the Department on Aug. 25, after 33 years of service.

Christie began his career on Aug. 25, 1974, with his first assignments in Lake Havasu City and Boulder City, Nev.

He then transferred to Research and Planning where he was responsible for the rewriting of the Department's General Orders.

After varied assignments, Christie promoted to sergeant on June 29, 1981, and was assigned to Black Canyon City.

He also served as a Highway Patrol sergeant in the Gila Bend and in the Phoenix-area.

During his career, Christie received two letters of commendation, one for a homicide investigation and the other for an asset forfeiture case. He also received four Director's Unit Citations and was given special, off-

duty assignments due to his ability to complete difficult projects.

Christie worked the Arizona State Fair for many years providing a safe atmosphere for the public.

Director Roger Vanderpool had this to say in Christie's official retirement letter:

"It is important to note that careers are seldom judged by awards or day-to-day accomplishments, but rather by the influence you have had on others by your warm personality and genuine concern for your fellow officers, your peers and the citizens of Arizona. You leave a void in the Department that will not be easily filled. You will no longer be "in service" at the Department but stories about 'Sgt. John Christie' will continue to emanate from department offices wherever employees gather to share their war stories."



**John Christie**

## After 37 years of service, Sgt. Ric Miller retires from the agency

Ric Miller retired from DPS on Aug. 3 after 37 years of service.

Miller began his career with the Department on Aug. 1, 1970, as a cadet officer. His first actual assignment was to District 3 in the Painted Desert.

In early 1974, Miller was assigned to a newly-created position of district resident CI agent and relocated to Holbrook.

He promoted to sergeant on Aug. 7, 1977, and was assigned to the Holbrook area. After relocating to Snowflake in 1983, he was assigned to the Pinetop area.

Miller also served as the District 11 administrative sergeant for five years. Over the final 15 years of his career, he served in the Heber, Holbrook and Show Low areas.

Miller was also a member of two very important committees in the 1990s.

The first, called "Project Elk Alert," focused on reducing the number of vehicle/elk collisions on State Route 260 between Payson and Heber.

In the late-1990s, Miller was a driving force behind the creation of officer-memorial monuments to honor fallen DPS officers.

He received a Director's Unit Citation, in 1998, for his work on this project.

In addition, Miller also received Director's Unit Citations as part of District 3 and District 11, in 1983, 1988, 1993 and 2002. In addition, District 11 was awarded the Highway Patrol District of the Year and the Northern Division District of the Year, both in 1993.



**Ric Miller**

## Sgt. John Stein retires from DPS after 30 years of service to DPS

John Stein retired from the Department on July 31 after serving the agency for more than 30 years.

Stein's career with DPS began on Jan. 2, 1977, as a probationary officer. After completing the academy, he was assigned to the Cameron area as a highway patrolman.

After this assignment, Stein transferred to metropolitan Phoenix where he served the remainder of his career.

While in Phoenix, he fulfilled officer and agent assignments in Human Resources, Highway Patrol and Security Guard Licensing.

After promoting to sergeant, Stein supervised squads in Criminal Investigations,

Highway Patrol and the Duty Office.

As the supervisor of the Duty Office, Stein was instrumental in the formulation and on-going operation of the Amber Alert Program.

In addition to supervisory positions, Stein held administrative/investigatory assignments in Internal Affairs and the Arizona Law Enforcement Officer Advisory Council (ALEOAC).

Director Vanderpool said in Stein's retirement letter, "You influenced generations of officers positively through your supervision. You were a significant contributor to the ongoing success of the Arizona Department of Public Safety."



**John Stein**

## Sgt. Rod Wigman retires from DPS after 30 years of service to agency

Rod Wigman retired from the agency on Sept. 28 after 30 years of service.

Wigman began his career with the Department on Sept. 4, 1977, as a cadet officer.

At that time, Wigman had already attained his master's degree in police administration.

Upon graduation from the Highway Patrol Academy in 1978, he was assigned to District 7 in Globe where he served eight years.

Wigman promoted to sergeant in 1986 and transferred to District 6, Casa Grande. After two years in this position, he transferred to Flagstaff where he completed his

career.

Director Roger Vanderpool said in Wigman's official retirement letter, "Your retirement leaves a void in this Department as you move on. Too often, public service is not adequately recognized.

"Its only reward at times is the sense of satisfaction one receives from a job well done. Your special and unique sense of humor, and relaxed style always enriched those around you.

"I want you to know that your dedication and loyalty to the Arizona Department of Public Safety have been recognized and are sincerely appreciated."



**Rod Wigman**

## After 30 years of service, Jack Owens retires from the Department

After 30 years of service to DPS, Jack Owens retired on Sept. 28.

Owens began his career with the Department on September 4, 1977, as a cadet officer. After graduating from the academy, he was assigned to District 3, St. Johns.

For the next 14 years, Owens served as a highway patrolman in St. Johns, with the exception of a temporary assignment to Criminal Investigations in 1987.

In late 1991, he transferred to Salome where he became a field training instructor for numerous new Highway Patrol officers assigned to the Salome area. In October 1998, Owens transferred into the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau for the remainder of his career.

In 1983 and 1988, Owens received

Director's Unit Citations as a member of Highway Patrol Districts 3 and 11. In 1984, he received a Letter of Commendation for his professionalism and dedication in restoring order during the "Cinco de Mayo" riot in Clifton.

In 1989, his received a Letter of Appreciation for his diligent efforts displayed during the manhunt of Deputy Robert Varner's murderers in Northeastern Arizona.

In 1982, Owens was named "Citizen of the Year" for the community of St. Johns for his work in constructing the Little League Baseball Park.

He was also a member of the Lions Club in Salome involved with the annual rodeo and refereed high school football and baseball.



**Jack Owens**

## Thomas Reynolds retires from DPS after 30 years of service

Thomas Reynolds retired from the DPS on Aug. 31 after 30 years with the agency.

Reynolds began his career with DPS on Jan. 2, 1977, as a cadet officer. After completing the academy, he was assigned to northeastern Arizona, Houck.

In 1978, Reynolds transferred to the Holbrook area where he also earned an associate's degree in psychology at Northland Pioneer College.

He accepted a temporary duty assignment as a cadet class counselor for Class #34 from July to November 1979.

Reynolds transferred to Phoenix and Advanced Training staff in mid-1980, and in late-1980, Reynolds promoted to agent and transferred to the Criminal Investigation Bureau, Central Narcotics Squad.

In 1981, he transferred to the DEA Task

Force and was assigned to the Special Investigations Unit in 1989.

In 1991, he transferred back to Narcotics in the Methamphetamine Clandestine Lab Unit and Major Violators Unit.

In June 1998, he accepted an assignment to the Liquor General Investigations Unit.

Six years later, in 2004, Reynolds volunteered to assist in the establishment of the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) and requested assignment to the Investigations Squad.

Over the course of his career, Reynolds was the recipient of four Director's Unit Citation awards. Additionally, he received two awards for Officer of the Year in 1997 for the Central Criminal Investigation Bureau and District 27 Narcotics.



**Thomas Reynolds**



## GIITEM opens new office at Guadalupe Boys & Girls Club

On Sept. 15, Director Roger Vanderpool, along with the east valley GIITEM squad, the Police Officers of Scottsdale (POSA) and members of the community, celebrated the opening of a GIITEM office in the Guadalupe Boys & Girls Club.

The office serves as part of "The Guadalupe Project," which was established by GIITEM to thwart the spread of gang-related activity in Guadalupe.

The office will allow GIITEM officers to show the youth of the Guadalupe community a more human side.

Sgt. Paul Entire said, "Through getting involved with the Boys & Girls Club, and preventative intervention techniques, the kids can hopefully see officers beyond just taking another person to jail but also that we are also people too."

"Hopefully we can get to kids at a younger age and show them that gangs are not a viable option."



### Fingerprinted

GIITEM, which collaborated with POSA to establish an office in Guadalupe, took the fingerprints of about 80 children to create personal identification cards for parents.

## Lt. Angel Leos chosen as interim police chief for Douglas PD

by Kellen Chavez

Digest Staff Writer

On Sept. 1, Lt. Angel Leos, who serves as the statewide canine commander out of Casa Grande, was selected as interim chief for the Douglas Police Department.

While he had no direct ties to Douglas, Leos embraced the position after Director Roger Vanderpool and Deputy Director David Felix approached him with the responsibility.

"I felt it would be a good experience for me so I went ahead and took the position. It's turned out to be very challenging but still a good experience," Leos said.

The position opened when Douglas' police chief of 17 years, Charles Austin, retired this year.

Leos, who will be in the position until November 1 at the earliest, said that he is part of a panel that has been searching nationwide for a permanent replacement.

He said, "We started with 13 individuals and we have now scaled it down to five. And over the next two weeks we'll probably have it scaled down to two and by mid-November we should have a candidate to present to the city council."

While Leos is entering his 16<sup>th</sup> year with the DPS Canine Unit, the responsibilities as interim chief have been a bit of a change.

"It's been a unique challenge because you have to answer to so many different



people and groups, including the [Douglas] city manager, the mayor, the city council, the public, but again I'm enjoying it."

Sgt. Martin Lepird has been acting sergeant for the Canine Unit in Leos' stead, but Leos is still able to oversee certain things.

Leos began his career with DPS in December 1989, assigned to the Highway Patrol in District 6, Casa Grande.

In June 1993 he was assigned his first canine "Linda" and was involved heavily in criminal interdiction.

In June of 1995 Angel was assigned as

the Department's first canine instructor. From 1995 to 1998 he spent many weeks in California obtaining canine instructor certifications for narcotics, apprehension and explosives detection.

In June 2000 he was promoted to sergeant and assigned as the Southern Canine Unit supervisor and was responsible for eight canine handlers who were assigned throughout Southern Arizona.

In December 2002, Leos was assigned as the canine tactical supervisor and developed the canine tactical team which consisted of explosive and tactical canines.

Leos promoted to lieutenant in April 2006. Leos has received numerous Director's Unit Citations as a member of District 6 Highway Patrol, Canine Unit, SWAT and Explosives Unit. He also received officer of the year awards in 1991, 1993 and 1994 while assigned to District 6 Highway Patrol.

Moreover, Leos was awarded Special Enforcement Bureau Supervisor of the Year in 2002. He was also selected by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau to participate in a National Explosives Odor Recognition test in Front Royal, V.A., representing one of seven agencies nationally selected to participate in the test.

Leos was born and raised in Casa Grande, Ariz. He holds his bachelor's degree in education from Northern Arizona University.



## DPS Explorer Post finishes well at Las Vegas competition

On June 16, four members of the DPS Explorer Post 403 impressed in a Sin City competition with a first-place finish in hostage negotiations and a third-place finish in the Air Soft pistol competition.

The Law Enforcement Explorer Conference, which is often referred to simply as "Ex-Con," is considered one of the more competitive competitions in the Southwest for those aspiring to careers in law enforcement.

Twenty-two posts, some of which were represented from as far away as Chattanooga, Tenn., competed in the competition to test their abilities against motivated explorers from around the U.S.

In addition to the activities above, Explorer Lt. Samantha Howard and Explorers Dustin Glasoe, Xavier Ruiz and Chris Demarco competed in additional areas such as active shooter, 911 hang-up, burglary response and unknown person traffic stops.

Sgt. Shane McFarland, Detective Mike Ruiz, Officer Shawn Enrico, Walter Howard and his wife, and Evidence Custodian Michael Ruiz and his wife, chaperoned the event as advisers.

Police Exploring is a program for people ages 14 to 20, who have interest in a career in law enforcement. Post 403 has gone to competitions in Maryland, Nevada and Ho-



### Accomplished Explorers

For several young adults interested in a career in law enforcement, the recent Explorer Conference in Las Vegas was the perfect place for them to demonstrate their skills in law enforcement-related areas. DPS Explorer Post 403 finished well in hostage negotiations and pistol competitions.

nolulu.

The Explorers look forward to new competitions in 2008 as well as the possibility of hosting an event.

Post meetings are held on Mondays at

6 p.m. in the Advanced Training building in the east classroom.

For more information about the DPS Explorers contact Detective Mike Ruiz at (602) 223-2129.



### Spreading goodwill

Recently, DPS Sgt. Kevin McNichols, who is assigned to the Highway Patrol in Nogales, embarked on a goodwill trip to Nicaragua to help build a new child-development center. The center will help local children there by giving them and their parents a modern place to receive schooling, health care, and nutrition information. The average yearly income in this community is less than \$300.

## DPS lends helping hand in child-safety-seat event in Flagstaff

On the afternoon of July 2, 2007, a collision occurred on U.S. 89 just north of the Flagstaff city limits.

The head-on collision caused the deaths of four individuals. In one vehicle were three adults and all three died of injuries suffered due to the collision.

The other vehicle had two occupants. The driver, Martha Portree, died instantly due to the force of the head-on impact.

The only survivor of this collision was the other occupant of the vehicle, four-year-old Samantha Portree.

Samantha was in the rear seat of the vehicle and was restrained by a forward-facing, five-point harness child-safety seat. Samantha suffered non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to Flagstaff Medical Center. She was released several weeks later with expectations to fully recover.

Samantha is alive today due to the diligence of her parents in properly using this child restraint. Some time before the collision Samantha's parents attended a Child Safety Seat Inspection at Summit Fire in Flagstaff where a child-safety-seat technician inspected Samantha's seat confirming it was the proper seat for Samantha's size and weight.

The seat was also checked for defects and recall issues. The technician then instructed the Portrees on the proper installation of the seat and of Samantha in the seat.

After the collision, a child-safety-seat event was planned in Samantha Portree's honor. The event was planned and coordinated by Heather Taylor of the Coconino County Health Department.

The event was held at Sam's Club in Flagstaff on Sept. 8, and was a tremendous success. DPS technicians were represented from Globe, Williams and Flagstaff and



### Properly secured

(above) DPS officers talk with local Flagstaff citizens at a safety event held on Sept. 8 in honor of Samantha Portree, a survivor of a fatal collision that claimed the lives of four people. Samantha was the beneficiary of perfect use of her child-safety seat.

Holbrook.

Other technicians attended from Summit Fire Department, Apache County Health Department, Flagstaff Police Department and Coconino County Health Department.

NAU students assisted the volunteers, while DPS provided traffic control. Over 100 seats were inspected, a notable accomplishment for an event of this size.

Twenty-six car seats were replaced with new seats provided free of charge by Coconino County.

Most importantly, of the 101 seats inspected only nine were installed correctly, meaning the vast majority of parents who came to the event were made aware of safety issues with their seats and educated on how to correct them.

## Harold Sanders receives A.J. Miller Distinguished Service Award

Harold Sanders was awarded the A.J. Miller Distinguished Service Award by the Arizona Black Law Enforcement Employees (ABLE) at their 2007 Criminal Justice Conference on Sept. 6.

The event, which was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Golf Resort in Scottsdale, ran from Sept. 5 through Sept. 7.

Among those attending the event to watch Sanders receive the award were DPS Director Roger Vanderpool and DPS Deputy Director David Felix.

Sanders has been a member of ABLE

for 17 years and served as president of the organization, a chapter of the National Black Police Association, from 1997 to 1999.

ABLE's mission is to promote a positive image of law enforcement employees to the community, to invest in the youth of the community through partnerships and youth programs, provide mentoring, training information and career guidance to its members in order to further their law enforcement careers.

ABLE's activities are also designed to actively recruit qualified candidates from the

African American community and the community at large to pursue careers in law enforcement.

Sanders began his career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety in 1977 and served the DPS for 23 years before he retired as a sergeant in 2000.

He returned to the agency in 2006 as a public information officer with DPS' Community Outreach and Education Unit.

As a PIO, Sanders is responsible for handling media inquiries, writing press releases and planning press conferences.



## Long-time DPS employee Ed Angles passes away at the age of 63

Facilities Maintenance Manager Ed Angles passed away, at the age of 63, in the early morning hours of Sept. 15.

His death came following a scheduled medical procedure, on Sept. 14, to insert two stints related to heart problems.

Angles suffered a stroke an hour after surgery and passed away at 3:30 a.m.

Angles began his career with DPS on March 17, 1981, working at the Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy in Tucson.

On Sept. 30, 1995, he promoted and transferred to Phoenix as the facilities maintenance supervisor for the Facilities Management Bureau.

He was responsible for supervising facilities maintenance technicians working out of Flagstaff, Phoenix and Tucson.

He was responsible for the creation of lead technician positions in Flagstaff and Tucson.



**Ed Angles**

Angles helped develop a new fire extinguisher program for inspection and servicing of the extinguishers when Facilities took

over the Safety Office.

Over the last several years, Angles also took the lead in implementing the governor's executive order on reducing energy consumption in existing facilities.

He was a key member of the Facilities team that won eight energy-conservation awards.

He was awarded the Facilities Management Bureau Supervisor of the Year award on May 11, earlier this year.

Funeral services were held at Unity Church of Phoenix on Sept. 20.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made to:

**In memory of Hayden "Ed" Angles  
Donor Network of Arizona  
201 W. Coolidge St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85013  
(602) 222-2200  
www.DNAZ.org**

## Special flag presentation held at Tucson Headquarters building



On Oct. 3, a special presentation took place at the Tucson DPS Headquarters to honor the DPS community.

Sgt. Saun Lehar, crew chief of an Apache Attack Helicopter, and son of DPS Sgt. Mike Lehar who is assigned to DPS' Criminal Investigations Division, presented an American flag and commemorative plaque to Larry Scarber, DPS southern region commander.

Lehar said that the flag had been flown

during a combat mission in Afghanistan. The 5.5-hour mission occurred on Sept. 10, and was called "KG Pass."

Sgt. Lehar said he wanted to make the presentation to DPS headquarters in Tucson because his father, Sgt. Mike Lehar, said that the Department has been like a "second family" to him and he wanted to show appreciation for all that DPS has done for their family.



### Honoring a "second family"

(Left) A group of DPS personnel stand with Sgt. Saun Lehar of the U.S. Army as he presents the Department's Tucson Headquarters with an honorary plaque as well as with an American flag that accompanied Lehar's Apache Attack Helicopter during a September combat mission in Afghanistan. (Above) A close-up picture of the flag and plaque that Lehar presented.

The plaque reads, "This flag was flown on a combat mission in an AH-64D Apache Helicopter in witness to the killing, capture, detention and interrogation of terrorist forces threatening the freedom of the United States of America and the world."

"This flag was flown in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom VIII for the men and women who lost their lives during the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001."



**Dear Director Vanderpool:**

On July 1, 2007, a shooting occurred within Park Place Mall in Tucson, Ariz. Two individuals were involved in a confrontation and were wrestling over a .40-caliber handgun.

Three individuals received non-life threatening wounds, the suspect and the two victims.

Department of Public Safety Officer Henry Flores was shopping in the mall when he heard gunshots. Officer Flores instructed his wife and kids to go to the parking lot and wait in their car for his return.

He immediately responded to the area of the gunshots. When he arrived, another law enforcement officer had just secured the handgun.

Officer Flores assisted by detaining the combatants and then turned them over to the Tucson Police Department.

The actions of Officer Flores are commendable and ended a life-threatening situation.

He intentionally placed himself in harms way and provided the highest service to the community.

Please extend our appreciation to Officer Flores for assisting the Tucson Police Department and the citizens of Tucson.

**Richard Miranda**  
Chief of Police  
Tucson Police Department

**Dear Director Vanderpool:**

Special Agent Darren Cox, Task Force Officer David Platt and I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to your analysts for their assistance in Operation Tiny Dancer.

The investigation, conducted by members of the FBI Violent Street Gang Task Force for over a year, revealed a methamphetamine ring operated by Kristine Tietjans, a long-time associate of the Arizona Aryan Brotherhood.

As a result of the investigation, 42 indi-

viduals were indicted on numerous criminal charges.

During the past year, Analyst Tori Taylor worked closely with members of our task force and was very integral to the intelligence and analytical requirements of the investigation.

Analyst Kathy Pennal aided with the intelligence and analysis, and also provided assistance in the weeks leading up to and including the takedown.

The assistance of your analysts was a tremendous benefit to the investigation.

Your analysts have always exhibited extraordinary cooperation and a phenomenal willingness to assist the FBI on many levels, and that certainly held true during this investigation.

The dedication and investigative efforts of your analysts significantly assisted in the dismantlement of a criminal enterprise.

On behalf of Special Agent Cox, Task Force Officer Platt and myself, please convey our appreciation to your analysts for a job well done.

**John E. Lewis**  
Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Dear Director Vanderpool:**

Thank you so much for your very kind and impressive letter thanking me for my nine years of service to DPS as a chaplain.

On my part, it was an honor for me to serve and my only regret is that my duties as president and principal of Brophy College Preparatory did not allow me to give the kind of time and attention to my responsibilities as a chaplain that the employees of DPS deserve.

It was my experience that all employees of the Department, that I had the honor to serve, were individuals dedicated to their jobs and committed to the welfare of all the citizens of Arizona.

It is my hope that as my duties at Brophy become less demanding, I will again be able to be of service to the Department of Public Safety.

Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness and blessings on you and all the members of DPS.

**Edward A. Reese, S.J.**  
President, Brophy College Preparatory

**Dear Director Vanderpool:**

I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the hard work and dedication of your department and DPS Highway Patrol Officer Robert Huijckman in the capture of Calvin Jeffers.

Officer Huijckman was invaluable in this situation and I appreciated his commitment and professionalism in catching criminals like Jeffers.

**David L. Crenshaw, Sheriff**  
Anderson County, South Carolina

(Editor's Note: Calvin Jeffers was a wanted sexual predator who was apprehended by DPS Highway Patrol Officer Robert Huijckman of Prescott on Aug. 3 following a routine traffic stop.

Jeffers, who molested five children and was once a licensed foster care parent, had been living in Prescott Valley for some time.

Months before he was stopped by Huijckman along Interstate 17 for unsafe lane usage, he had been featured on the popular television program "America's Most Wanted.")

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## Down the Highways

### October 1972

DPS Officer Emery Collins was shot in the right ear lobe and a Casa Grande man was shot in the elbow, Oct. 15, during a marijuana raid in the desert near Eloy.

Collins was treated and released at a Casa Grande hospital while the suspect was taken to the Tucson Medical Center.

DPS Sgt. Dennis Hermansen said the suspect and narcotics officers exchanged gunfire after officers were led to the marijuana by an area farm worker. Hermansen said officers seized 400 pounds of marijuana.

### September 1977

A Kingman man was arrested Sept. 10 after striking DPS Officer Ron DeLong Sr. twice during an arrest attempt in the parking lot of an area convenience store.

The incident began when DeLong, working undercover, approached the suspect and asked the man for some "smokes." The suspect then gave DeLong a marijuana joint. DeLong showed his badge, but the suspect was not about to give up easily.

The suspect put the truck in reverse and accelerated, striking DeLong with the left front fender. After spinning twice in the parking lot, the suspect then backed onto Beale Street, running over DeLong's foot.

DeLong was taken to an area hospital and treated for a chipped bone in an elbow and broken bones in a foot. The suspect was arrested about an hour later at his home.

### October 1982

District 12 Highway Patrol Officer John

Hoyt was injured Oct. 3 when his patrol car struck a range cow while in pursuit of two westbound violators on U.S. 66, about 10 miles west of Seligman.

Upon impact, the cow flew through the patrol car's windshield into the driver's seat. The patrol car, which had been traveling at speeds of at least 90 mph, skidded off the highway, rolled and caught fire.

Hoyt was conscious but dazed when the fire started. Fortunately, a Peach Springs school teacher and his wife saw the patrol car on fire and stopped to help.

Dow Wilson, the teacher, used a pocket knife to cut Hoyt's safety belt before he and his wife, Bonnie, pulled Hoyt from the burning patrol car.

The Seligman-based officer was flown to Flagstaff Medical Center for treatment of facial lacerations, bruised ribs and to remove fragments from a shattered right knee cap.

Bonnie Wilson suffered first- and second-degree burns on her face, arm and side when pulling the officer from his patrol car.

### September 1987

Alcohol played a part in the Sept. 11 collision which killed five people on S.R. 69, east of Prescott.

DPS Officer Tim Goodwin said the driver of a pickup truck involved in the crash had been hunting in the Prescott area and had visited several Whiskey Row bars before leaving the city.

Goodwin said the man, who was killed along with four others in a second vehicle,

had a blood alcohol level of .18.

### October 1992

Highway Patrol Officer Bruce A. Flickinger, 31, suffered serious injuries during an accident on Oct. 14.

Flickinger had stopped an eastbound 1974 Kenilworth truck tractor driven by Bruce Dush, 38, Snowflake, on I-40 near Holbrook. Flickinger was reaching into his patrol car, parked behind the Kenilworth, when it was struck from behind by a 1992 Peterbilt semi driven by William Allen, 65.

The impact caused Flickinger's patrol car to strike the rear of the Kenilworth, crushing the patrol car. Flickinger was transported to Flagstaff Medical Center with a broken right femur, broken right arm and facial injuries.

### September 1997

On Sept. 25, a Maricopa County Superior Court jury found Ernesto Martinez guilty for the Aug. 15, 1995 murder of DPS Officer Bob Martin.

According to *The Arizona Republic*, jury foreman Michael Mass said there was no question in the jury's mind that Martinez planned to kill Martin, 57, after the officer stopped him on U.S. 87 for a traffic violation.

"The prosecution did an excellent job in showing that there was premeditation," Mass said. "The overwhelming evidence was against him, and it was a very easy decision to make."

Prosecutors from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office said they would seek the death penalty for Martinez.